SI. N	Name of the Working Group	Status
5.	Misleading Advertisements	Constituted 1.1.2004 1st meeting held on 11-5-2004. The report of Working Group is awaited.
6.	To formulate New Acts and to suggest amending in the Consumer Protection Act	Constituted on 16.1.204 Three meetings held so for. A Sub group was formed to examine suggestions received from the public/experts etc. on amendments to the Consumer Protection Act. The sub-group met five times and has submitted its report to the Working Group.

Production of Sugar

†524. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of sugar has been decreasing constantly in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the stock of sugar in the country in October, 2004;

(d) the assessment regarding production of sugar in the country during sugar production year of 2004-05;

(e) the assessment made about the consumption of sugar in the country;and

(f) whether it is a fact that surplus stock of sugar was available in the country during the sugar year of 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Production of sugar in the country declined in 2003-04 and 2004-05 sugar seasons because of drought and wooly aphids pest infestation in major sugar producing states.

(c) The stock of sugar in the country on October 1,2004 is estimated at 85 lakh tonnes (provisional).

(d) The production of sugar from sugarcane in the country in 2004-05 sugar season is estimated at 130 lakh tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,

(e)and(f) Carryover stock from 1st October, 2004 and production in 2004-05 sugar season together is expected to ensure adequate availability of sugar to meet domestic consumption in 2004-05 sugar season.

Proper storage of foodgrains

†525. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the available quantity of foodgrains in the country as on 30th June, 2005;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains spoiled/rotten during the last three years alongwith the cost assessed against rotten foodgrains;

(c) whether it is a fact that while foodgrains get rotten in godowns, the poor people of the country do not have access to the same and die of hunger as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 30th June, 2005 was 251.13 lakh tonnes

(b) The quantity of foodgrains spoiled/damaged during the last three years alongwith the year-wise cost assessed against these foodgrains are as under:-

Year	Quantity (in lakh tones)	Value (in Rs. in crores)
2002-2003	1.35	49.09
2003-2004	0.78	29.19
2004-2005	0.97	40.28
		(Provisional)

(c) and (d) No Sir. Adequate quantitiy of foodgrains is being regularly allocated under Targetted Public Distribution System and various Welfare Schemes of the Government. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana families) and Welfare Schemes during 2003-2004 was 495.63 lakh tonnes against which the offtake was 334.69 lakh tonnes. For the year 2004-2005, the allocation for these schemes

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,